REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the captioned application. Applicants elected to prosecute claims 1-17 and withdrawn claims 18-28 as drawn to the non-elected group. Applicants have amended claim 1. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner regards the term "antibody compound" as needs clarification. In response, Applicants submit that the term is defined in the specification, see page 8, lines 24-27. Specifically, the term "embraces functional antibody fragments and fusion proteins comprising antibodies". The passage further defines "functional antibody fragment" as "a fragment, which has retained essentially the original binding properties of the antibody". Applicants submit that the term is thus well defined and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rosenstreich et al. (J. Exp. Med. 1998 Vol. 168, page 1767-1779). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the method includes contacting the liquid with an affinity chromatography matrix. In contrast, Rosenstreich et al. does not include an affinity chromatography step. Thus, Applicants submit that the 102 (b) rejection of claims 1-3, 6 and 10 should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 5-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Gagnon (Purification Tools for Monoclonal Antibodies, 1996) in view of

Kitajima et al. (US 20030021783) or Haurum et al. (US 20060275766). Applicants respectfully disagree.

As the Examiner stated, Gagnon is a tool book and lists a number of chromatography methods and the separation and purification of antibody from liquid serum sample. Gagnon does not explicitly teach combining affinity, ion-exchange and hydrophobic interaction chromatography together. Further, although Gagnon teaches use of PEG to contacting the matrix, the author states that due to the high viscosity of PEG solution, it is "impractical for most preparative applications." (page 159, first full paragraph).

Kitajima et al. describes in general that antibodies can be separated and purified by suitably selecting and combining chromatography and other methods (section 0101). However, Applicants submit that this broad statement does not offer a teaching or suggestion of the specific combination as claimed here. Further, no non-ionic polyether is required or mentioned.

Haurum et al. states that affinity chromatography has frequently being "combined with subsequent purification steps such as ion-exchange chromatography, hydrophobic interaction chromatography" for the separation of antibodies. However, Applicants submit that this general statement does not offer a teaching or suggestion of the specific combination as claimed here. Further, no non-ionic polyether is required or mentioned.

Even if the references are combined, Applicants submit that the combination does not teach the specific combinations claimed, nor does the combination teach that

non-ionic polyether is required. Thus, the obviousness rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-13 should be withdrawn.

Claim 4 stands rejected as obvious over the combination of Gagnon in view of Kitajima et al. or Haurum et al., further in view of Bander et al. (US 20040120958). Claims 14-17 stand rejected as obvious over the combination of Gagnon in view of Kitajima et al. or Haurum et al., further in view of Odink et al. (US 5350687). Applicants respectfully disagree. In response, Applicants submit that as discussed above, claims 1-3 and 5-13 are not obvious. Therefore the dependent claims 4 and 4-17 are not obvious.

Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims 1-17. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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